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Former County Commissioner settles ethics complaint

Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dorrin Rolle has settled charges he violated the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance by seeking public funds for the James E. Scott Center (JESCA) when he served as its president and chief executive officer. The complaint (**C 10-14**) accuses the recently ousted District Two Commissioner of meeting with officials of the County Manager's Office and Parks and Recreation Department in 2007 to help provide money for JESCA's Senior Center, violating two sections of the code – "exploitation of official position" and "actions prohibited when financial interests are involved." When he became a County Commissioner in 1998, Rolle was advised by the County Attorney's Office that he would need to recuse himself on issues involving JESCA. Rolle plead no contest to all four counts of the complaint and will pay a fine of \$1,750 as well as accept a public reprimand.

A man who registered as a lobbyist in Miami-Dade County in 2007 but didn't file Lobbyist Expenditure Statements as required by July first of the following year, resolved the issue. After failing to respond to reminders and notices sent by the County Clerk's office and the Ethics Commission, a complaint was filed against Domenic Massari (**C 10-32**), who represented SolarDiesel Corporation. After filing the required forms and appealing to the Ethics Commission, the fine was waived and the complaint dismissed.

A complaint (**C 10-38**) filed by a buyer in Miami-Dade County's Enterprise Technology Services Department against a special assistant to the deputy director was dismissed as legally insufficient. Orlando Martinez complained that Pedro Cacicedo intimidated him into violating the County's procurement policies, thereby misusing his official position. The Ethics Commission determined that the complaint concerns management issues outside its jurisdiction.

Also dismissed as not legally sufficient was a complaint (**C 10-39**) filed against Miami City Commissioner Marc Sarnoff and Sergio Guadix, Director of the City's Code Enforcement Department. Al Crespo accuses the Commissioner of conducting official business from his private office and operating his private office illegally, according to city regulation of businesses, and charges that Mr. Guadix has overlooked the violations. The Ethics Commission found that no law is violated by Sarnoff sending city-related e-mails from his private office and that it has no jurisdiction over the City's business licensing. The board also ruled there is no evidence that Mr. Guadix has inappropriately interpreted or enforced city codes.

In other action today, members voted to appoint Vice Chair Dawn Addy, Director of the Center for Labor Research and Studies at Florida International University, to interview employees of the Commission on Ethics about an anonymous complaint submitted against Executive Director Robert Meyers. The findings of Prof. Addy's inquiry will be discussed at a future meeting.

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of education, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.

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